

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 171601Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3228

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 1362

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, CS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: NEED FOR INSTRUMENT LANDING SYSTEM AT JUAN
 SANTAMARIA AIRPORT

REF: STATE 035590

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR ILS SYSTEM FOR
JUAN SANTAMARIA AIRPORT WITH DGCA STRUNZ; RODRIGO
CUESTA, CHAIRMAN OF CIVIL AVIATION TECHNICAL
COUNCIL; REPRESENTATIVES OF LACSA AND PAN-AMERICAN.

2. CUESTA, WHO APPEARED BEST INFORMED ON SUBJECT,
INDICATED HE EXPECTED GOCR WILL BE READY SERIOUSLY
CONSIDER INSTALLING ILS IN ABOUT ONE YEAR. HE
BELIEVES FIRST PRIORITY IN IMPROVING NAVIGATION AT
AIRPORT IS RE-LOCATING VOR/DME TO CENTER OF RUNWAY
06 AND INSTALLING ADDITIONAL APPROACH LIGHTING,
BOTH OF WHICH CURRENTLY BEING DONE. HE QUESTIONED
WHETHER ILS WOULD ELIMINATE OVERFLIGHT PROBLEM
SINCE ACCORDING TO PAN-AM STUDY IT WOULD ONLY
REDUCE MINIMUM CEILING TO 250 FEET. HE ALSO CLAIMED
STUDY FAILS TO ADDRESS "MISSED APPROACH" PROBLEM
POSED BY MOUNTAINS TO NORTH OF AIRPORT. IN
ADDITION HE NOTED PRESIDENT OF LACSA HAD WRITTEN
CIVAIR ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO INDICATING COSTA RICAN
CARRIER'S PRESENT FINANCIAL CONDITION DID NOT PERMIT
IT TO CONTRIBUTE TO COST OF INSTALLING AND MAINTAINING
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ILS SYSTEM.

2. WE SUSPECT CUESTA'S EMPHASIS ON COMPLETING VOR/DME RELOCATION AND INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROACH LIGHTING PRIOR TO EMBARKING ON ILS MAY INDICATE HE HOPES THESE IMPROVEMENTS MAY LESSEN OR EVEN ELIMINATE NEED FOR ILS.

4. EMBASSY UNABLE EVALUATE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF WHETHER OR NOT ILS WOULD ELIMINATE OVERFLIGHTS DURING RAINY SEASON. HOWEVER, COSTA RICAN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS EXTZCTS IN ABOUT ONE MONTH TO SELECT FIRM TO DO MASTER PLAN FOR JUAN SANTAMARIA AIRPORT. WE UNDERSTAND PLAN WILL INCLUDE STUDY AND RECOMMENDATION OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS SYSTEM. PLAN WOULD PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR DETAILED, IMPARTIAL STUDY OF ILS WHICH SHOULD RESOLVE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS AS TO ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN ELIMINATING OVERFLIGHTS.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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